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approvingly the so-called Borstal system, which is an attempt to specialize the treatment of youthful offenders within the prisons so as to improve their condition physically and mentally and to teach them a trade. This attempt seems to be along the line of the American industrial reformatory, though the author criticises quite severely the Elmira Reformatory. In the eighth chapter he depicts the exceedingly bad conditions which existed in English prisons in the time of John Howard and shows their subsequent great improvement. Discipline in the English prisons and its deterrent and reformatory effects are the subject matter of the last two chapters. American prisons are here criticised for what he believes to be their too great laxity of discipline.

Dr. Quinton has had a long practical experience within prisons, as is shown by the character of the present volume. But the author seems to be quite ignorant of the literature of criminology and his knowledge is apparently of the purely empirical sort. Dr. Quinton is manifestly an uncompromising defender of the existing prison system. There are, of course, wide differences of opinion on this point.

MAURICE PARMELEE.

*University of Missouri.*

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**Stimson, F. J** *Popular Law Making.* Pp. xii, 390. Price, \$2.50. New York: Scribner's Sons, 1910.

Mr. Stimson's recent works on constitutional law are now supplemented by a discussion of statute law. The latest study is decidedly popular in style and will disappoint those who look for a scholarly analysis. The chapters devoted to the origin and history of law making by statute, forming the first third of the work, are decidedly the most thorough portion. There is little new material presented, but the development of the English parliament from a judicial to a legislative body, the gradual growth of the importance of statutory law and the character of some of the early legislation are ably discussed. The chapters on Early Labor Legislation and Laws Against Restraint of Trade and "Trusts" are in a field where the most valuable of Mr. Stimson's work has been done, and they are the best portion of the book.

The greater portion of the book is devoted to a discussion of American legislation and its tendencies. The chapters are sketchy in style—partly the result no doubt of the fact that the book is based on a series of lectures. There is evident the lawyer's prejudice against anything which modifies the sacred structure of the common law. "It has been well doubted . . . if this immense mass of legislation is a benefit at all" (p. 117). "Nobody is so willing to interfere with the rights or liberties of the people as the people themselves" (p. 121). If this be true, our first interest must be not what is the object of the book—to study the content of the laws that express our struggle for better conditions, but to find out the best way to hinder their passage and minimize their effects. Discouraging indeed must be the prospect

of those who seek social betterment by means of law if the author's point of view is correct.

Fortunately, however, his material, even with all its evidence of freak legislation and hastily made statutes, will not lead all his readers to his discouraging conclusion—indeed, the last chapters of the book, discussing the methods by which law making may be improved, show that the author himself does not fully accept his own argument.

The last two-thirds of *Popular Law Making* give chapters to the various branches of our social legislation. Laws on business affected with a public interest, on trusts, corporations, labor regulations, elections, racial and divorce legislation and criminal law and police are summarized in an easy and pleasing style though the author does not neglect the varied opportunities to castigate our state legislatures which his subject affords. The tone of the book is with few exceptions decidedly opposed to popular law making. Examples of this attitude are the belief in the unwisdom of the laws passed regulating rates and fares on railroads, doubts as to the changes proposed in the election of United States senators and as to primary elections. Woman's suffrage, the initiative, referendum and recall are of little promise or are openly opposed. It is a satisfaction to note that the author approves the legislation regulating the labor of women and children.

This book falls short of what the average reader will expect. It fails at two points. The treatment is sketchy and the repetitions and contradictions in thought and statement of fact are disconcerting. Secondly, the point of view is that of the man who worships the common law to such an extent that he overlooks the fact that the law is a progressive science, and that one of the greatest facts in its present development is the importance of the changes being wrought by statutory enactment.

CHESTER LLOYD JONES.

*University of Wisconsin.*

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**Sykes, Ella C. *Persia and Its People.* Pp. 350. Price, \$2.50. New York: Macmillan Company, 1910.**

At this time, when the control of Persia by Russia or Great Britain has become one of the big questions of the East, this book on Persia will be read with great interest. It gives a comprehensive survey of the country, its physical characteristics, government, religion and all that pertains to its people. The author states that the book is the result of two visits to Persia, extending over a period of about three years. Some of the descriptions come from her own observations, but much of it is taken from the writings of other English travelers, whom she quotes frequently. The book is a popular description of Iran and cannot be called scholarly. However, the poor arrangement of some of the material and the occasionally awkward English are forgotten in the interest the book awakens. Much valuable information is given and the author is in sympathetic touch with the country she describes.